

ΔΕΣΤΕ

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Ίδρυμα ΔΕΣΤΕ
Εμ. Παππά & Φιλελλήνων 11.
142 34 Νέα Ιωνία
Αθήνα Ελλάς

DESTE Foundation
11 Filellinon & Em. Pappa St.
142 34 Nea Ionia
Athens Greece

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T — 30 210 27 58 490
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May 2021



Kaari Upson, *False Foot (Dakis left Donkey right)*, 2021 | Courtesy of the artist

The Greek Gift

Coordinated by Massimiliano Gioni

DESTE Foundation Project Space, Slaughterhouse, Hydra

Duration,
June 22, 2021 —
October 31, 2021

* In accordance with the public health & safety guidelines, there will be no opening event *

Opening Hours,
Daily 11:00–13:00 & 19:00–22:00
Tuesday Closed (exception: open on Tues., June 22)

** Visitors are kindly asked to wear a mask for the duration of their visit and adhere to social distancing regulations. Please note that there will be a limited number of visitors allowed in the space at a time **



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Following the postponement of a special project by Jeff Koons commissioned for the DESTE Foundation's Project Space at the old Slaughterhouse in Hydra, Greece, due to COVID-19, a group of artists and friends of Dakis Joannou and the Foundation have come together to swiftly organize a small group show. This presentation doubles as a portrait of the collector and serves as a miniature survey of his collection.

Coordinated by Massimiliano Gioni, *The Greek Gift* brings together a series of new and existing works, alongside found objects and impromptu responses from a variety of artists who have maintained decades-long relationships with Dakis Joannou and the DESTE Foundation.

Part-divertissement and part-collaborative project, this small exhibition borrows its title from a chess tactic—the “Greek gift sacrifice.” This move, for which a player sacrifices a bishop in order to checkmate, in turn is believed to have been named after the mythical gift of the Trojan Horse from the Achaeans to the city of Troy. As any gift, it is a complex tangle of generosity and self-interest.

As in a chess game, several artists have been invited to “make a move” by selecting artworks and objects from the collection; in response, Joannou and Gioni countered by choosing other pieces. Functioning much like a surrealist “exquisite corpse,” the exhibition sets in motion a series of chain reactions between artworks—a domino effect of intense proximities.

Installed in the small, cavernous spaces of Hydra's Slaughterhouse, the works sit side by side, like toys in a doll house, alongside Marcel Duchamp's maxim “A Guest + A Host = A Ghost.” Serving as inspiration for the exhibition, Duchamp's piece of word play, which appears inscribed in a 1968 issue of the magazine *S.M.S.*, suggests the transformations that occur when disparate ideas and objects are combined.



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The Greek Gift features artworks and objects made by, selected from, or belonging to:

Anonymous, Pawel Althamer, Matthew Barney & Elizabeth Peyton, Ashley Bickerton, Kerstin Brätsch, Louise Bourgeois, Maurizio Cattelan, George Condo, William N. Copley, Roberto Cuoghi, Nathalie Djurberg, Marcel Duchamp, Urs Fischer, Robert Gober, Jenny Holzer, Dakis Joannou, Jeff Koons, Paul McCarthy & Mike Kelley, Tim Noble & Sue Webster, Chris Ofili, Seth Price, Charles Ray, David Shrigley, Josh Smith, Kiki Smith, Christiana Soulou, Kaari Upson, Andra Ursuta, Meyer Vaisman, Nari Ward, Christopher Wool, Chen Zhen, and Jakub Julian Ziolkowski.
